

Policy P113 Community Gardens

Responsible Business Unit/s	Community, Culture and Recreation; City Environment
Responsible Officer	Manager Community, Culture and Recreation
Affected Business Unit/s	Community, Culture and Recreation; City Environment; Sustainability

Community gardens can contribute to social and community development. The activities that take place – recreational gardening, information and knowledge sharing, cooperating through work parties, social events for gardeners and food production - bring people together from all walks of life and all ages to assist in building stronger communities.

For the purposes of this policy, a community garden is defined as a garden that:

- Is on City-owned and/or managed land, including, but not limited to, public open space (POS);
- Is managed by a community group that is a not-for-profit organisation;
- Involves the participation of the wider community and/or a specific community (e.g. retirement village) in the day to day operation of the garden;
- Encourages the involvement of local residents and community groups; and
- Has a primary activity of growing fruit, vegetables and herbs, for the personal or shared use of its members.

The City aims to promote and encourage the multiple outcomes of community gardens including recreational activities, community development, education and events, and to recognise the value of community gardens as a public amenity.

Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to outline the:

- City's general position on community gardens; and
- basic requirements for the establishment of new community gardens on City owned and/or managed land.

Policy Scope

This Policy applies to all stakeholders involved in community gardens on City owned and/or managed land within the City of South Perth including City officers, residents and community members.

Policy Statement

The City of South Perth supports the establishment of community gardens by community members where all of the following criteria apply:

1. Appropriate City-owned and/or managed land, whether POS or other land, is available to be used as a community garden site (refer below for further details of site requirements);
2. The community garden would be consistent with and complement the current and future role of POS in the area;
3. The proposed community garden and the objectives of the community garden group benefit the local area and community; and
4. There is demonstrated community interest and support for a community garden in the local area, with evidence of a committed group of local residents to initiate and manage the project in the long term (including proposed committee members).

Site

An appropriate community garden site, in addition to being City owned and/or managed land, should be:

- A suitable location for access and passive surveillance;
- A suitable size for the garden to be feasible and viable;
- Have suitable soil quality and drainage;
- Have appropriate site orientation (for climate considerations including sun and wind);
- Have an existing on-site water supply;
- Have suitable topography (ideally with minimal slope to minimise earthworks, and to avail access);
- Have appropriate facilities such as parking and toilets; and
- Be open and accessible to the public.

Community Garden Community Groups

Community gardens are to be initiated, developed, constructed, maintained and managed by a Community Garden Community Group (CGCG).

For each community garden, one Community Garden Community Group will manage the garden. Community Garden Community Groups are:

- To be a not-for-profit community group; Be incorporated associations, under the Associations Incorporations Act 1984; or an auspice arrangement with an existing incorporated association with the appropriate insurance cover;
- To have, the necessary insurance cover and public liability cover that indemnifies the City; and
- To set up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the City to outline the terms of the arrangement to use City owned/managed land. This MoU is to define the community garden site; the relationship expectations and code of conduct of group members; and the expectations, requirements and responsibilities of both parties (CGCG and COSP) in relation to the partnership being established.

Legislation/ Local Law Requirements

Not Applicable

Other Relevant Policies / Key Documents

CoSP Public Open Space Strategy

P102 Community Funding Program

P110 Support of Community and Sporting Groups

P103 Communication and Consultation

CoSP Sustainability Strategy 2012-2015

P692 Sustainability Policy

Application form for in-principle approval to establish a community garden on City land

Application guidelines for community gardens